

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25X1
TOPIC	Military Movements in the Eighth Gds Army Area			25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED		25X1
DATE OF CONTENT				25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	22 June 1954	
REFERENCES				
PAGES	5	ENCLOSURES	100 & TYPE)	
REMARKS				610169

1. During the night on 31 May 1954, elements of the units stationed in the barracks installation in Loebstedt (8222) near Jena returned to their quarters. The installation was occupied about 80 percent. In the morning on 1 June, 16 T-34/85 tanks, 14 SU-100 guns and 8 armored scout cars and numerous heavily soiled trucks were seen in the barracks yard. [redacted] from the Roedigen airfield, trucks [redacted] carrying ammunition boxes entered the installation. 25X1
2. During the night on 31 May, elements of the units stationed in the barracks installation in Zwaetzen (8221) also returned to their installation which was less occupied than the abovementioned barracks. In the morning on 1 June, numerous soldiers carried billeting equipment into the installation. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 160 soldiers drilled with rifles in a meadow near Kunitz, northeast of Jena. About 70 soldiers were digging a trench. Alarm was sounded every 10 minutes, whereupon all soldiers took cover. There was no vehicular traffic nor were any heavy weapons observed.¹
3. On 30 May and 6 June, all barracks installations in Weimar were occupied by only rear details, with Ludendorf Kaserne (8503) being occupied by 250 to 300 soldiers including some wearing signal and motor transport insignia and, some, black-bordered red epaulets. On 1 June, about 20 signal troops left the installation and subsequently practiced signaling with flags at the edge of the town. At 0800 on 1 June, 40 soldiers fell in for a roll call in Panzer Kaserne (8507). About 100 Russians watched a game of soccer involving two Soviet teams at an athletic field in the town. Driving school vehicles were no longer observed in the town. It was said that the troops were to return from the training grounds earlier than usual.
4. At 1830 on 1 June, a shipment of 20 x 50 to 80-mm AT guns, 3 heavy mortars and about 20 motor vehicles [redacted] passed through Weimar, proceeding westward. Several soldiers were seen in each vehicle. The rear of the train consisted of several closed boxcars. 25X1
5. On 4 June, a shipment of 3 x 76.2-mm guns, 2 x 120-mm mortars, 6 trucks, and 1 boxcar occupied by troops was attached to a freight train which with the engine headed toward west, was observed at the Graeferröda railroad station.

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6. On 5 June, the barracks installation in Plauen was occupied to capacity by the units previously observed there. Training was less intensive than usual at that time of the year. Motor vehicles seen en route between Hindenburg Kaserne (8442) and Koenig-Georg Kaserne (8443) [redacted]

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7. On 28 May and 4 June, the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne (8481), Saalfeld, apparently was occupied by a new unit, as sentries observed there were black-bordered crimson epaulets with motor transport insignia. Truck [redacted] occupied by an officer and about 20 soldiers entered the installation. Sedan [redacted] which was observed in the installation at the same place on all days of observation, presumably belonged to the commanding officer. During the preceding months, this sedan was also observed in Flak Kaserne (8461), Rudolstadt. On 28 May, 3 M-13 rocket launchers each occupied by 8 soldiers wearing artillery insignia, numerous soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia, driving school vehicles [redacted]

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8. On 1 June, about 12 to 15 x 76.2-mm canvas-covered guns and about 25 trucks were seen in the Prinz-Eugen Kaserne (8462) in Rudolstadt. The new mounds in the gun emplacement in front of the installation had been sodded. Up to 15 ammunition boxes, 80 x 40 x 20 cm, were stored in front of each gun. [redacted]

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9. On 1 June, the Flak Kaserne (8461) appeared to be occupied as previously by about 500 troops. About 80 troops received infantry training in the training area.

10. Between 26 May and 1 June, the Bismarck Kaserne (8385), Naumburg was occupied by about 300 soldiers. Troops continually practiced with new AA guns in the barracks yard. The guns had calibers between 37 and 76.2 mm.²

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11. Between 26 May and 1 June, the Barbara Kaserne (8384) Naumburg was occupied by 300 to 400 soldiers. The unit furnished sentries for Oberlandesgericht (8387), which was vacant on 26 May. On 30 May, 10 trucks and 5 radio trucks [redacted] and a total of about 250 soldiers entered the installation.

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12. Between 26 May and 1 June, the Bluecher Kaserne (8381), Naumburg, was occupied by about 300 soldiers. The unit furnished sentries for Hindenburg Kaserne (8383) and the ration supply depot on Kroppentalstrasse. The Bluecher Kaserne was vacant on 26 May.

13. Between 26 May and 1 June, the Hubertus Kaserne (8382), Naumburg, was vacant.

14. On 12 May, Soviet units with T-34 tanks, AT guns, and numerous trucks were stationed in the Kindel cantonment just south of Highway No 84. The buildings in the south section of the camp, which were in a better condition than the other buildings, appeared to be occupied by a headquarters. Many sedans were seen near these buildings. About 150 German workers were building barracks for the construction bureau and the workers in the camp just west of Haina. The wood lane, which cut through the Hintere Hainaer Holz (woods) from east to west, was being widened to the approximate width of the autobahn with a row of trees in the middle.

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15. Between 12 and 30 May, only the camp between Grossenlupnitz and Kuenkelhof in the western portion of the Kindel troop training grounds was occupied by troops. The Kindel cantonment and the camp in Hainaer Holz appeared to be occupied by only guard details. Neither exercises in the training area nor troop shipments at the Eisenach railroad station were observed during the period under review. At 1845 on 21 May, 3 officers and 50 troops wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets, armed with 8 light machine guns and carrying light field pack arrived at the Eisenach railroad station from Kindel and left by rail for Wartha west of Eisenach. Vehicular traffic on Highway No 84 had decreased compared to preceding years.

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16. Between 16 and 30 May, the barracks installations on either side of Schubertstrasse (8181), Gotha, were occupied by about 2,000 soldiers, 70 percent of whom wore black-bordered red epaulets and the others red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets. Two hundred to 400 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and equipped with light infantry weapons, heavy machine guns and entrenching tools almost daily entered the installations. Trucks each occupied by 20 troops wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia and towing 76.2-mm guns and truck towing 1 x 85-mm gun were observed on 28 May.

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17. Between 12 and 20 May, the barracks installations in Plauen (8441 through 8443) were occupied to capacity as previously.
18. On 19 May, the barracks installations in Meiningen (8301 and 8302) were occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Two hundred to 300 soldiers were seen drilling in the barracks installations.

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19. Between 8 and 17 May, the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse (8001), Altenburg, was occupied by the at least 1,200 soldiers of the artillery unit previously observed there, while the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse (8002) was occupied by the AT unit previously seen there. About 1,000 soldiers received training with AT guns.

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20. Between 9 May and 4 June, the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse, Altenburg, was occupied by about 700 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Four 122-mm and 152-mm guns were also observed.

21. Between 9 May and 4 June, the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse was occupied by about 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. On 24 May, 20 AT guns were observed in the installation. Several 76.2-mm guns mounted small caliber rifles for firing at practice targets. On 27 May, 150 soldiers practiced aiming with 3 x 122-mm and 45-mm guns in joint exercises with signal troops with radio sets. On 4 June, about 200 troops were observed practicing with 7 x 100-mm AT guns, 2 x 85-mm AT guns and 152-mm guns north of the installation.

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22. Between 26 and 29 May, the Reuss Kaserne (8141), Gera, was occupied as previously by 3,800 to 4,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, AT, motor transport and signal insignia. Soldiers were continually trucked to the training area north of Untermhaus. About 8 x 100-mm AT guns had been permanently stationed in improved emplacements in the training area near Weinberg (hill) after about 15 May. Several bunkers were lighted after nightfall. Between 2100 and 2200 on 21 May, soldiers fired with carbines and tracer ammunition at a miniature village lighted by searchlights. After 5 single rounds there was a 5-minute break.
23. Between 23 and 29 May, the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz was occupied by 400 to 900 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Twelve groups of soldiers, totaling 200 men, received infantry training and 2 T-34/85 tanks engaged in driving practice in the training area. A JSU-249 gun and 1 JSU-122 gun were seen in front of the sheds.
24. Between 24 and 31 May, the barracks installations in Gera (8141 and 8142) were occupied as previously. At 1815 on 25 May, 10 track-laying vehicles towing 9 x 100-mm AT guns and 6 trucks left Reuss Kaserne toward the Zeitz Forest. Nine 122-mm howitzers were observed in this installation. 25X1
25. On 1 June, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied as previously by an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 soldiers. At 1815 on 25 May, 7 prime movers [redacted] towing 6 x 100-mm AT guns; and 4 trucks, each occupied by 20 soldiers [redacted] left the installation toward the Zeitz Forest. At 1830, they were followed by 3 prime movers, each towing 1 x 100-mm AT gun and each occupied by 9 soldiers. On 27 May, similar units with 4 x 122-mm howitzers, 4 x 100-mm AT guns; and 8 trucks, each occupied by 20 soldiers, went in the same direction at 1700, 1800 and 1830 respectively. 25X1
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26. On 31 May, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied by an estimated 300 soldiers. Between 28 and 31 May, 3 to 5 T-34/85 tanks with varying crews were daily seen at driving dexterity practice in the training area. On 27 May, a military band of about 20 men drilled in the installation.
27. On 18 May, the Flak Kaserne (8321), Merseburg, was occupied by 800 to 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 60 trucks were parked in the yard. Prime movers [redacted] towing 152-mm guns entered the installation. 25X1
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28. Between 12 and 29 May, the Flak Kaserne, Merseburg, was occupied to capacity as previously. Thirteen 100-mm AT guns were being cleaned. A training area with bunkers, trenches and obstacles was being built west of the installation. The new training facilities included 20 towers 7 to 8 meters high, from which firing with live ammunition with rifles and light machine guns was practiced on 29 May. The towers were erected on bunkers, 2 meters high. Ammunition for 152-mm howitzers was continually hauled to the ammunition depot at the airfield by track-laying vehicles. It was rumored that the troops would not transfer to summer camps because of possible unrest.³
1. [redacted] Comment. The return to Jena of units of the 20th Gds Mech Div which fairly definitely had been stationed at Ohrdruf after 4 May, is reported for the first time. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. The new AA guns observed in Naumburg may have been new 57-mm AA guns. This type of gun is observed for the first time in the Soviet Zone of Germany. 25X1

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3.  Comment. This information again confirms that, prior to early June, major elements of the Eighth Gds Army were still stationed at their posts. It is undetermined whether this situation resulted from the fact that riots were expected to occur or from a change in the summer training program. It is noted that all artillery brigades did not yet conduct their standard training in firing; instead, they engaged in unusual improvement of post training fields and unusual exercises including firing with rifles mounted on AT guns, night exercises and night firing. The artillery brigade from Gera apparently also conducted firing over short distances in the near Forst Zeitz training area.

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